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Department of Health, Physical Education & Dance  
Piedmont Project, 2008 – 2009  
PE 151, Beginning Scuba Diving

I have been increasingly aware of our rapidly growing rates of consumption of all resources, and I am looking for possible ways to educate current and future generations about the consequences of our daily choices and actions, both small and large. I also know from experience how ineffective it is to stand up on a soapbox and lecture on facts which ring alarm bells for me, but are “inconvenient truths” to many people. The group experience of the Piedmont Project was a wonderful model in both small group and large group discussion, drawing out the beautiful variety of strengths, perspectives, expertise, humor, and communication styles that are the richness of the Emory faculty.

My goal when applying for the Piedmont Project was to adapt my existing Scuba Diving course to encompass sustainability themes such as ocean conservation and fishing practices. I already devote one class session to small group presentations on aquatic environment/conservation issues, but I want to expand the scope to make it a recurring theme which builds as they develop their understanding of their role and responsibility as human beings and as scuba divers. This workshop helped stimulate thinking about ways to incorporate assignments in which the students have some freedom to choose topics of interest to them, and allow them to express their points of view to their peers. Two limitations I needed to be mindful of: a) this is a 1-credit PE class, and the out-of-class work could not be too time consuming or feel too much like homework, and b) all the other course content needs to be covered, for reasons of safety and liability. All assignments and homework are graded pass/fail, the criteria being whether or not it is handed in on time.

Below is the syllabus for the upcoming semester. The sustainability-related assignments are listed at the bottom, after a lot of daunting specifics about course requirements.

## NAUI Beginning Scuba Diver Course Syllabus PE 151 – Fall 2008

### **Instructor:**

**Lecture/Discussions:** Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Paula Stauf, M.S., & Staff Instructors

Phone: (404) 727-6527

Email: [paula.stauf@emory.edu](mailto:paula.stauf@emory.edu) or LearnLink

Office: 322D Woodruff PE Center (overlooking the pool); hours by appointment

**Pool Sessions:** Paula Stauf & Staff Instructors; Wednesdays 5:30 – 8:00 pm

### **Overview**

This is the entry-level course in the principles and skills of scuba diving. The objective of this course is to provide the novice with above-minimum knowledge and skills to participate safely in open water scuba activities without direct leadership supervision, provided the environmental conditions approximate those in which they were trained. The purpose of the course is to prepare for certification as a Scuba Diver, and all participants are expected to meet the standards and criteria necessary for beginning Open Water training.

### **Qualifications of Graduates**

After successful completion of this course, individuals are considered competent to engage in open water scuba diving certification activities. Upon successful completion of all phases of the course (including open water), the NAUI Scuba Diver certification will be awarded, provided that the student demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and attitude required for safe diving. This card, accompanied by a logbook represents a certain level of training/experience and is internationally recognized. Alternatively, a referral for Open Water certification may be given for students wishing to complete certification on their own.

### **Prerequisites**

Participants must be at least 15 years of age and have no chronic or major health problems, and be able to demonstrate satisfactory watermanship skills (see “Confined Water Sessions”). Students must show proof of medical approval for diving before open-water certification or referral. Student health services phone #: (404) 727-7551

### **Required Textbook**

*Scuba Diver*, National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI, 2000), included in lab fee, distributed in class after enrollment is finalized.

### **Course Fees**

The lab fee for this course is \$150.00, billed to your bursar’s account the second week of class. This fee includes the required textbook and the use of the following Emory University snorkeling and scuba diving gear during pool sessions:

*Mask, snorkel, booties and/or fins, wetsuit, B.C., regulator, scuba cylinder, weights, and weight belt.*

For those students who wish to provide their own personal snorkeling gear, the lab fee will be reduced by \$30.00, and students may purchase gear through a dive shop of their choice.

### **Classroom Content**

Classroom content includes basic foundations in the following: diving physics, physiology, equipment, underwater environment, decompression theory, dive table usage, sustainable practices related to diving, diving emergencies, and boat diving/planning procedures. Homework will be given at various points during the class.

### **LearnLink Conference**

Students are responsible for regularly checking the PE 151 conference, and are responsible for any information or material posted therein.

### **Confined Water Sessions**

In the confined water, basic skin and scuba skills are learned and practiced in preparation for the open water experience. These skills include but are not limited to: swimming skills (no aids), snorkeling skills, scuba skills such as equipment setup/handling, out of air emergencies, entries/exits, rescue techniques, mask clearing, regulator clearing/recovery, proper weighting for skin and scuba diving, etc.

Any student unable to pass at least two (2) of the three required swimming skills at the first pool session (250 yd. non-stop swim, 10 min. dead-man's float, 50 ft. underwater breath-hold swim) will be asked to drop the class for this semester in order to improve their watermanship skills. All swimming skills must be completed before open-water scuba certification is begun.

Lecture AND LABS WILL MEET during drop/add, beginning Tuesday September 2nd & Wednesday September 3rd, and all students are responsible for attendance during this time (see "Attendance Policies"). Labs will meet through the week of October 15th.

### **\*\*\* Attendance Policies\*\*\***

The attendance policy complies with the Physical Education Department's policy, which states that you are allowed three (3) absences without being dropped from the course failing. However, due to the nature of this course, students are required to attend ALL classroom and pool sessions in order to receive certification or a referral for certification. ALL students must meet ALL course requirements. Students missing a classroom session will be required to do a homework assignment pertaining to the material covered in class. There are NO MAKEUPS for pool sessions. A lab absence will disqualify the student from participating in a certification trip and count against the attendance portion of the grade. Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of class, and being more than 10 minutes late will count as an absence. If you are more than 10 minutes late for a pool session, you will not be able to get into the pool and will be counted as absent. Due to the cumulative nature of confined water training, and the skill-progressions which must be followed, there are no allowances made for missing (skipping) any pool sessions, for the safety of all students enrolled in the course.

### **Open Water Dives**

Certification is not a required part of the course, and has no bearing on the student's final grade. There will be one certification trip run through the HPED Department during the Fall Break; details will be discussed during the first lecture class. If a student is unable to participate in that trip, upon successful completion of all phases of the course, a referral for completion of scuba certification training will be given, which students can take to any dive shop or dive instructor within 30 days of course completion. Students wishing to become certified must complete five (5) open water dives, which are conducted separately from the course. All five dives can typically be completed during one certification trip weekend. The student must perform competently in the open water in order to receive certification. The student is responsible for all other costs associated with open water training certification (food, hotel, travel, gear rental, purchase of a logbook & dive tables, diving fees, instruction, additional trips, etc.)

### **Grading**

The grade for this course will be derived from classroom and pool. The percentage distribution is:

Quizzes/Homework-	35%
Certification Exam-	30%
Attendance/Attitude/Participation-	35%

"Attitude" will be subjectively evaluated based on respect for the rules of safe diving and preparedness for classes.

-Any late work will be marked down by 50% - no exceptions

-No work may be submitted via email unless specifically approved in advance by the instructor.

Scuba gear is life-support equipment, and should be treated with proper care. Gear must be stored correctly in the scuba room; a point will be taken off a student's final letter grade for each time their gear is stored incorrectly.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Dept of Health, Physical Education, and Dance is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students in need of accommodations must present authorized medical documentation to the Office of Disability services (ODS), 110 Admin Bldg. Once registered with ODS, it is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the instructor at the beginning of the semester to receive accommodations.

All students are subject to the Emory University Honor Code during Physical Education classes. This is partially reprinted below from:  
[http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor\\_code.html](http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html)

## ARTICLE 4: ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct is an offense generally defined as any action or inaction which is offensive to the integrity and honesty of the members of the academic community. This offense includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Seeking, acquiring, receiving, or giving information about the conduct of an examination, knowing that the release of such information has not been authorized;
- (b) Plagiarizing;
- (c) Seeking, using, giving, or obtaining unauthorized assistance or information in any academic assignment or examination;
- (d) Intentionally giving false information to professors or instructors for the purpose of gaining academic advantage;
- (e) Breach of any duties prescribed by this Code;

## **Sustainability topics and assignments**

### 1. Underwater environment conservation website assignment

Description: In small groups, students will find an existing website which deals with underwater environment conservation practices, and give a brief overview/presentation of the site to the class. The site can involve oceans or fresh water anywhere in the world. Topics covered will include the mission or goal of the site/organization, problems & challenges being addressed, and ways that students can effect change or get involved.

### 2. Impacts of scuba diving assignment/discussion

Description: Students will come to class prepared to discuss the various environmental impacts of scuba diving, both positive and negative, and offer suggestions on ways to minimize or offset harmful effects and expand awareness of positive effects.

3. Fishing practices assignment

Small groups will choose a topic related to fishing industry practices and give a brief presentation to the class about their topic. Choices will include: traditional fish farming, sustainable fish farming, worldwide fishing practices, governmental protection practices (domestic or abroad), and seafood consumption choices/recommendations.

4. "Fish of the week" fish identification homework (ongoing)

Each week a different buddy team will introduce a reef fish which we'll be likely to encounter on our certification trip to West Palm Beach, Florida.